Differences over education cess

461. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Group of Ministers to resolve differences over the use of the money collected as education cess;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether the GoM had met and discussed in this regard recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Linking of schools through EDUSAT

462. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the pilot project of his Ministry, 1,000 schools in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh will be linked through EDUSAT, the exclusive education satellite; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pilot project for strengthening the quality of education and teacher's training through EDUSAT Supported Network is in the process of implementation. 850 schools in the State of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh are proposed to be connected under the pilot project through the EDUSAT Supported Network.

The project will cover four districts one each in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh with a Hub and Studio for the network

at Jabalpur. The estimated initial cost be met by the ISRO is nearly Rs. 11.91 crore, whereas the cost of studio equipment and other peripherals will be nearly Rs. 83.00 lakhs which will be met by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The operational cost will be met by the Distance Education Council (DEC)/IGNOU,which is estimated to be Rs. 1.44 crore per year.

Universalisation of secondary education

463. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 81,000 crores detailed programme has been drawn up for universalising secondary education on the pattern of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funding of the programme and the role assigned to the States and its present status;

(d) the details of any dedicated machinery proposed to be set up for successful implementation of the gigantic programme; and

(e) the Planning Commission's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) No detailed programme for universalising Secondary Education has been drawn up. However, a concept note has been prepared and sent to the Planning Commission. No decision has been taken to formulate a regular scheme in this regard. A scheme may emerge after due consultation.

Exploitation of young women by NRIs

464. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether numerous instances of exploitation of young women in the pretext of marriage by NRIs have come to Government's notice;